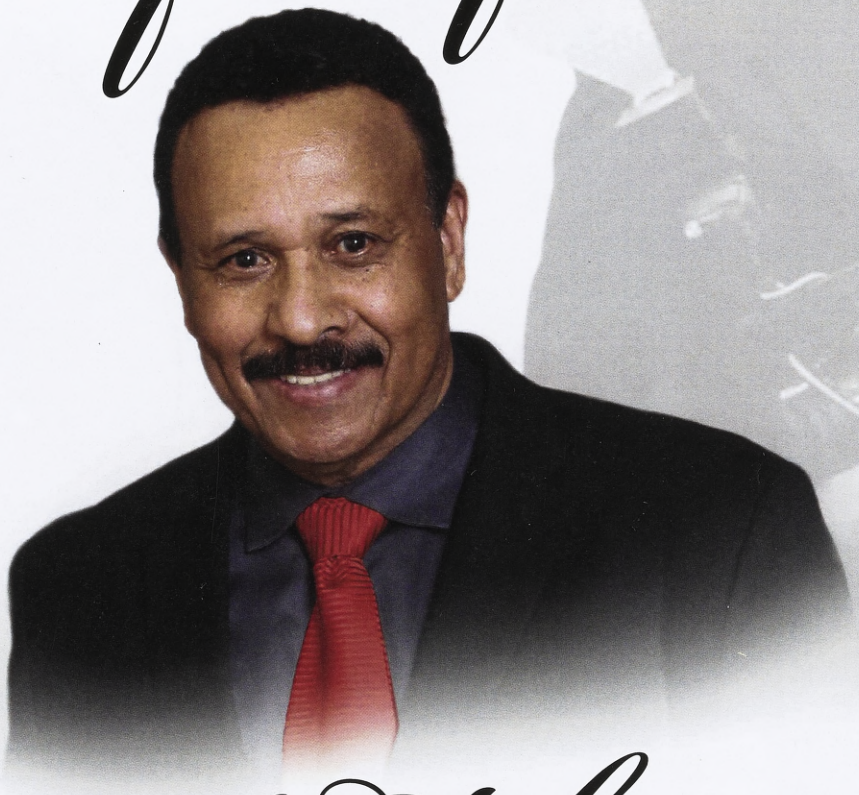
Celebration of Life



Joel Clifton

Entered the World
June 16, 1948

Celebration Held On
December 28, 2019 - 11:00am
Acts Full Gospel COGIC
Bishop Bob Jackson, Host Pastor

Welcomed Home
December 13, 2019

Public Viewing – 9:00AM to 10:30AM | Family Processional – 10:30AM

Officiant - Rev. Dr. Kevin James
Eulogist - Rev. Craig A. Brown

Order of Service

Sacred Scroll Reading
Old Testament.....Bishop Melvin V. Scott
Powerhouse Evangelistic Center

New Testament.....Bishop Johnathan D. Logan, Sr.
Prelate of Greater Northern California Second Jurisdiction

Invocation.....Pastor Horacio S. Jones
Family Bible Fellowship

Medley of Praise.....Robin Hodge-Williams

Words of Expressions from Friends (2 minutes).....Leonard Lothlen, Sr.
Clarence A. McElhaney, Jr.
Doug Sanders
Calvin Watkins

Obituary.....Read Silently

Words of Expression from Clergy (2 minutes).....Bishop Jerry W. Macklin
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop, COGIC
Prelate of Nor Cal Metropolitan Jurisdiction

Bishop Bob Jackson
Prelate of California West Coast Jurisdiction COGIC

Bishop Michael Johnson
Prelate of California Northeast Jurisdiction COGIC

Pastor Charley Hames, Jr.
Beebe Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Pastor Ronald G. Thompson
Prayer Tower COGIC

A Song for My Friend.....Lynette Hawkins Stephens

Words of Expression from Family.....Supt. Mark Anthony Clifton
East Oakland Church Of God In Christ

Sermonic Solo.....Arteria Davenport

Eulogy.....Reverend Craig A. Brown

Recessional.....Well Done.....Pastor Portia Sumner
Kalila Rafa
Terrance McCurdy

Remembering Joel

Joel Frank Clifton was born to the parents of Samuel F. Clifton Jr. and Alfreda C. Clifton in Oakland, CA on June 16, 1948. Throughout his childhood he was devoted to serving the church and professed being saved at a young age. Being born into a family of very involved believers exposed him to Christianity early, but Joel knew God for himself. His faith and relationship with God propelled him to be the upright, loving person that all were blessed to know. He was a member of Mingleton Temple COGIC where his parents were faithful servant-leaders. He too became active within his church, becoming a well-known drummer who was called to play for many services and events. His talents grew, and with the help of other anointed singers and musicians, they created the *Voices of Joy*. They traveled and performed together at various churches in different states. This led him to play and become a member of Love Center Ministries, where he was one of the featured drummers on their albums.

At Oakland High School, Joel was recognized as a dynamic wrestler with high ranks in his division. His self-motivated character pushed him to accelerate in the sport. Although he made the decision to discontinue his involvement due to the teachings of his then pastor, his precision, standards, and great discipline could be seen in everything he was a part of in the future.

Joel decided to pursue higher education by attending Laney College in Oakland, CA, completing his coursework to obtain an Associates Degree. He was a good student, but what he did not know was that he would meet someone that God placed just for him. One day he looked out across the quad and watched a beautiful young lady walking to class. He exclaimed to his friends, "That's the girl I'm going to marry," and he stayed true to his word. On September 6, 1969, Joel and Betty sealed their love and married at Beebe Memorial Cathedral in Oakland, CA. They worked hard and at the young age of 21, bought their first home together. This was a mark of continued blessings. 11 years later, that blessing came in the form of their first son, Joel Jr. in 1980, and 17 months later received their second blessing, their son Brandon in 1981.

There was no question that Joel had a gift for working with his hands and an eye for detail. He created speakers within his own business, Clifton's Speaker Systems, the first of many entrepreneurial pursuits. He fulfilled other jobs in roofing, a Longshoreman on the Bay Area waterfront, and factory work at Mother's Cookies and Sunshine Biscuits. Working at a paint shop allowed him to practice his autobody skills and hone in on his expertise under the hood. But all the while he was perfecting his craft in photography. This interest in photography was sparked by his Uncle Harold, who bought him his first camera from overseas. It developed into a true passion and there was rarely a time that you would catch Joel without a camera in hand. It became his mark and people recognized him for his great talent. One day, he approached Betty with the desire to step out on faith to open a studio of his own. She agreed and *Clifton Photography* was stationed in the heart of Oakland on MacArthur Boulevard.

Joel did not limit his photography ministry to one type of people or group. On any day he could have a shoot with a church organization, then an hour later, have an appointment with well-known local rappers. The love and attentiveness that he displayed was not limited and that was how he created valuable relationships with those of all creeds. It was indeed his ministry and Joel never missed a chance to spread the Gospel in the way his client needed it. His business was for photos, but some left his studio healed and encouraged, something that money could never buy. If Joel was booked for an event, he would be sure to arrive at least an hour in advance. Time and promptness was extremely important to him. He quickly garnished the titles of *Bay Area's Photographer, A Legend,* and *The Photoshop King,* among many others, because of his ability to capture the true essence of people, then completely change the setting if it was needed. He shot pictures for notable groups such as 100 Black Men, The Links, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Gamma Boule, and many prominent churches within the Pentecostal and Baptist denominations.

Joel continuously worked nonstop. As an amazing helpmeet, Betty made sure to find ways for Joel to get away and rest. He fell in love with taking cruises, trips to their timeshare in Las Vegas, and resting on the beaches of Hawaii. These were times that Joel was able to reflect on all that God had done for him over the years and the beauty of God's creations.

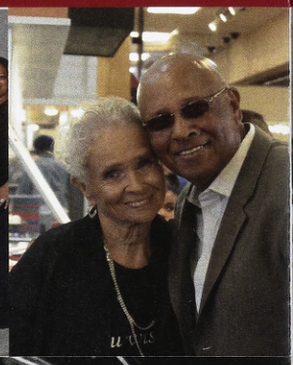
In the early 2000s, Joel was asked to participate in the music ministry at a local church in Tracy, CA for Sunday services. He agreed and eventually became a member of that church, New Creation Bible Fellowship. It would become his home church until God called him into his ultimate home.

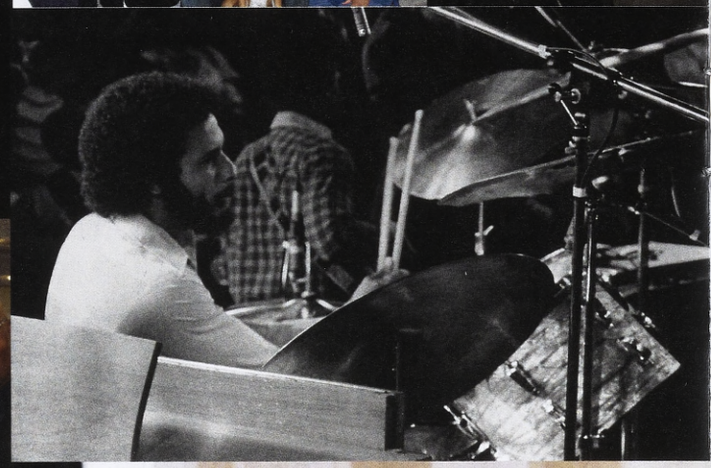
Joel was blessed to be surrounded with love by his family and friends during his long battle with illness. He stood on God's Word and fought through the hardest moments with the faith that God would see him through. His selflessness compelled him to continue capturing important moments and editing photos to perfection. Each photo that he has taken over the years, from black and white to brilliant color, will continue to impact generations to come.

Joel leaves with us his devoted wife, Betty Clifton; Children: Joel Clifton Jr. and Brandon Clifton; Grandchildren: Cydney Jo, Carter; Siblings: Joyce (Ralph) Melton, Sondra (Erven Jr.) McSwain, Carrol Fortson, Samuel III (Camelliane) Clifton, Reginald (Felicia) Clifton, Trina (Roderick Sr.) Haynes; In-Laws: Otha Lyles Jr., Opal Gillies, Alfred Lyles, Larry Lyles, Wayne (Alicia) Lyles, Devron Lyles, Anita Alexander; Uncles: Harold Clifton, Alfred (Barbara) Perrodin; Aunt, Levy Perkins; Nieces and Nephews: Sonja, Jamahl, Errick, Derrick (Karen), Mia (Stefano), Monica, Erven III (Magan), Samuel IV, Lauren, Zechariah, Mathew, Alexandria, Avery, Malachi, Lyla, La'Vonnda (Demitrius), Roderick Jr., Taj, Quinten, Devonte, Khyiana, Khyiera, Khyia, Tyrone, Samuel V, Lyric, Enavi, Jonas; God Family: James (Pamela), Aineicia (Brandon), Portia (Lyndale) and a host of nieces, nephews, and relatives.

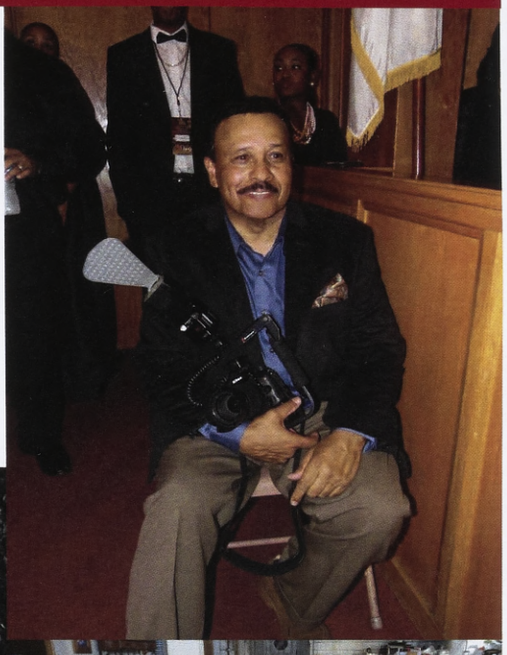
Preceded in death was his father, Dr. Samuel Frank Clifton Jr.; Grandfathers: Samuel Frank Clifton Sr., Alfred Perrodin Sr.; Grandmothers: Myrtle B. Clifton, Louise Perrodin; Father-In-Law, Otha Lyles Sr.; Mother-In-Law, Sylvester Lyles; Brother-In-Laws: Ronald Gillies, Lonnie Lyles; Aunts: Ruth Clifton, Seawillow Boudin, Veral Noland, Anita "Ann" Clifton, Yvonne Adams; Uncles: John Lincoln Perrodin, Bishop Martin J. Clifton; Sister-In-Law, Cecilia Lyles; Nephews: Robert Odom, Kyle Lyles

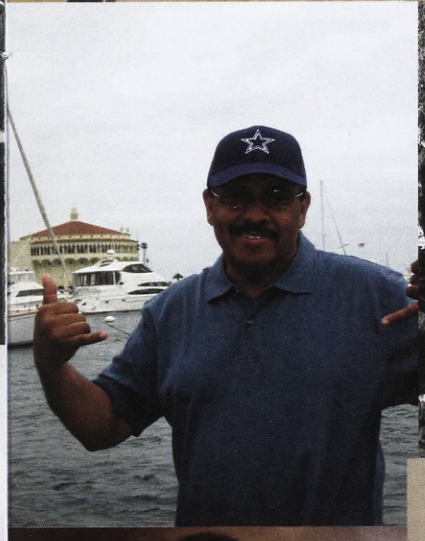
Easter 2014

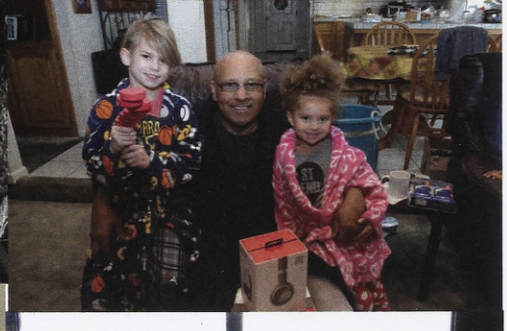


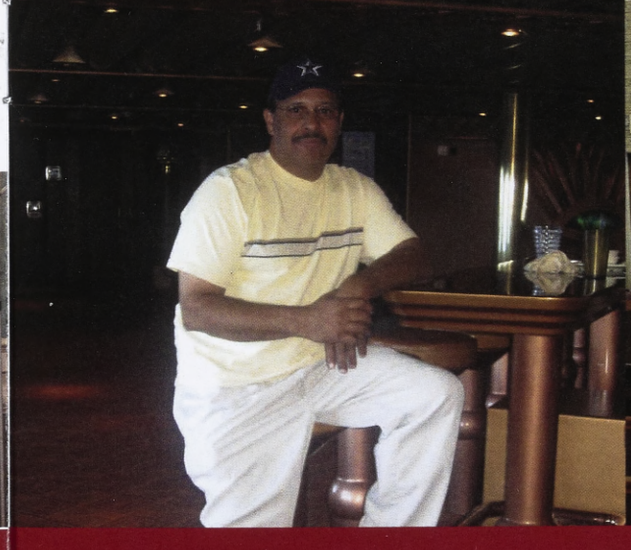


Clifton









Clifton

Active Pallbearers

Rev. Thomas West Sr. James "Booyah" Richards Rev. Ken Clarke

Elder Kevin Richardson Deacon Rovere Evans Deacon Robert Lawson

Honorary Pallbearers

Joel Clifton Jr. Brandon Clifton Samuel Clifton III Reginald Clifton

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Clifton family, thank you for the prayers and love you have shown. We express sincere appreciation for every phone call, card, words of comfort, and flower arrangement. We ask that you continue to be in prayer for us.

May God bless you!

Special Thanks

Worship Ministry Band
Calvin Earl Brown (Bass), Darius Lynch (Drums), Ron Lynch (Guitar), Kevin Moore (Saxophone), and Devin Watkins (Organ)

100 Black Men of the Bay Area, New Creation Bible Fellowship, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Mingleton Temple COGIC, Love Center Ministries, Daniel Hawkins, Bay Area Photographers, Bay Area Musicians

Arrangements Entrusted To
C.P. Bannon Mortuary
6800 International Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94621

Private Interment at a Later Date